

Message Text

SECRET

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, SALT, EABR, UR, US
SUBJECT: BERGLAND/KOSYGIN MEETING - MAY 15

1. SUMMARY - ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY HATHAWAY, SECRETARY BERGLAND MET WITH PREMIER KOSYGIN FOR SLIGHTLY OVER AN HOUR ON THE AFTERNOON OF MAY 15. THE ATMOSPHERE WAS CORDIAL. PRIME MINISTER LOOKED EXCEEDINGLY FIT, SPOKE FREELY WITHOUT NOTES, AND DISPLAYED KEEN INTEREST IN AS WELL AS COMPETENT GRASP OF MOST SUBJECTS COVERED. APART FROM A BRIEF EXCHANGE ON IMPROVED OUTLOOK IN BILATERAL RELATIONS AS RESULT OF RECENT VANCE VISIT, NO IMPORTANT NON-AGRICULTURAL POLITICAL MATTERS WERE RAISED. A WIDE RANGE OF AGRICULTURAL TOPICS WERE DISCUSSED BUT NO NEW MAJOR AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS OR POLICIES WERE AGREED UPON. KEY SUBJECTS RAISED ARE DESCRIBED BELOW:

1. TRADE. THE SECRETARY THANKED THE PREMIER FOR THE GRAIN PURCHASES MADE BY THE SOVIET UNION THIS YEAR AND IN THE
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PAST. HE INDICATED THAT IT WAS IN THE U.S. AND SOVIET INTERESTS FOR SUCH TRADE TO CONTINUE AND EXPAND IN FUTURE. HE ALSO MENTIONED THE CONTINUED NEED FOR THE GRAIN AGREEMENT. KOSYGIN MADE NO SUBSTANTIVE REPLY.

2. AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT. THE SECRETARY CITED THE EXCELLENT TECHNICAL COOPERATION IN THE

FIELD OF AGRICULTURE WHICH HAS BEEN ACHIEVED AND RECOMMENDED THAT SUCH COOPERATION BE INCREASED. KOSYGIN AGREED AND INDICATED THAT THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT WOULD SUPPORT FUTURE COOPERATION IN THE AGRICULTURAL AREA, "IN ALL WAYS POSSIBLE."

3. INTERNATIONAL GRAINS AGREEMENT. THE SECRETARY RAISED AND POINTED OUT THE FACT THAT U.S. AND SOVIET GOVERNMENT ARE PRESENTLY COOPERATING IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW INTERNATIONAL WHEAT AGREEMENT. WE ASKED THAT THE SOVIETS CONTINUE THEIR PARTICIPATION TO DEVELOP SUCH AN AGREEMENT UNDER WHICH WORLD PRICES AND SUPPLIES COULD BE STABILIZED. KOSYGIN REMAINED SILENT.

4. AGRICULTURAL ACT OF 1977. SECRETARY BERGLAND BRIEFLY INFORMED KOSYGIN ABOUT THIS NEW LAW. HE SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED THE RESERVES PORTION OF THE LAW, STATING THAT THROUGH THE CREATION OF THIS 40 MILLION TON RESERVE WE WOULD BE BETTER ABLE TO SUPPLY ALL OF OUR CUSTOMERS INCLUDING THE SOVIET UNION. THE THRUST OF KOSYGIN'S RESPONSE WAS THAT U.S. WANTED TO HAVE ITS CAKE AND EAT IT TOO. THE SECRETARY STRONGLY REFUTED.

5. INVITATION TO AGRICULTURAL MINISTER MESYATS. THE

SECRETARY MENTIONED TO KOSYGIN HE HAD INVITED MINISTER OF
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AGRICULTURE MESYATS TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES THIS YEAR AND HOPES VERY MUCH THAT THE MINISTER WILL BE ABLE TO ACCEPT THIS INVITATION.

6. BILATERAL POLITICAL RELATIONS. THE SECRETARY INDICATED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER WAS MOST ENCOURAGED BY THE PROGRESS MADE AT THE RECENT MEETINGS BETWEEN SECRETARY VANCE AND MINISTER GROMYKO AND THAT THE PRESIDENT HOPES THAT THIS MOMENTUM CAN BE MAINTAINED. KOSYGIN LATER IN THE MEETING REFERRED TO WEAPONS CONTROLS SAYING SIMPLY WE SHOULD CUT DOWN ALL WEAPONS TO ZERO AND THAT THE SOVIETS ARE WILLING TO SIGN ANY AGREEMENT NOW OR AT ANY TIME WHICH WOULD ACHIEVE THIS AIM. HE ALSO OPINED THAT TOO MUCH OF MANKIND'S EFFORTS ARE DEVOTED TO PRODUCTION OF WEAPONS INSTEAD OF SOLUTION OF AGRICULTURAL PROBLEMS.

7. DETAILED MEMCON BEING SEPARATELY PREPARED. TOON

NOTE BY OC/T: RAISED TO EXDIS PER SSO MEMO DATED 7/29/71.
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